of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantity of rice and wheat imported during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88; and

(b) what is the total cost of imported rice and wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No wheat or rice was imported on Government account during the years 1986-87 and 1987-88.

(b) Does not arise.

Treatment plant to disinfect mangoes

*55. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a treatment plant to disinfect mangoes to encourage their exports to Japan and other countries; and

(b) if so, by when and where the plant is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Efforts are being made to establish facilities for vapour heat treatment plants for disinfestation of mangoes.

Prices of sugar

*56. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of sugar have risen very high in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is a shortage of sugar in the country; and

(d) if not, the steps taken to bring down the prices of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) The open market price of sugar has been generally steady for the last two years. In the last few weeks, there has been some increase in the open market price of sugar. This has been mainly due to speculative tendencies in the sugar market.

Government has already taken measures to contain price increase. The free sale sugar quota for the month of July, 1988 has been increased from 4.40 lakh tonnes released for the month of June, 1988 to 5.00 lakh tonnes. For the month of August, 1988, free sale quota of 5 lakh tonnes out of indigenous sugar has been released. In addition to this, imported sugar would also be released to State Governments for distribution through the controlled channels. The State Governments have also been advised to ensure strict enforcement of statutory provisions relating to stock holding limits and time limit for turnover of stocks. Government would also ensure strict enforcement of statutory provisions relating to sale and despatch of released quantity by the sugar factories.

Employment opportunities for rural and urban labour

*57. SHRI SHARAD YADAV
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of increase in the employment of labour in the country both in rural and urban areas at the end of 1987 as compared with the employment opportunities created at the end of 1986; and

(b) whether any evaluation of the programmes for alleviating poverty and creating employment for the labour in the country has been made by Government; if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the percentage by which employment opportunities